

A D D R E S S

OF THE

CAMERON AND LINCOLN CLUB

OF THE

CITY OF CHICAGO, ILL.

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTH WEST.

By a resolution of the CAMERON and LINCOLN CLUB of the City of Chicago, it was made the duty of the Executive Committee to address you in reference to the nomination by the National Republican Convention, of the Hon. SIMON CAMERON, of Pennsylvania, for President, and Hon. ABRAHAM LINCOLN, of Illinois, for Vice-President of the United States.

While we would earnestly urge the nomination of these distinguished Statesmen, convinced as we are that they are the men for the times, in whose hands the honor of the Government, and the cause of free soil, may with safety be confided, it is not our purpose to reflect upon any of the other distinguished candidates, or to disparage their claims to the nomination.

The policy of the Democratic party has a tendency to degrade free labor, to give the slave power control of the Government, to fix slavery upon territory now free, and to re-open that greatest of all iniquities, the African slave trade. To this policy, and such doctrines, we are unalterably opposed. Like the Father of our country, we are opposed to the spread of slavery into any new territory, and believe that Congress has entire control over the territories for their government, a doctrine which met the approval of the founders of our Republic, received their sanction, and was exercised by Congress from the organization of the government until the repeal of the Missouri Compromise in 1854.

The heresy that slavery exists in the territories of the United States, under the Constitution, is in direct antagonism with the Constitution, which declares that Congress shall make all needful rules and regulations for the government of the territories, and

"that no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property, without due process of law." It is anti-American and anti-Republican, and should be frowned upon and repudiated by every freeman and lover of the principles promulgated in the Declaration of Independence. There is no power in the Constitution conferring the right upon a citizen of a State to carry Slaves into any territories of the United States; and we maintain that the instant he does so, they become free. Such being the fact, while the Constitution shall be maintained, we deny the right of any power in this government to plant slavery in any of our territories, or to give it legal existence there.

In urging the nomination of Gen. Cameron for the Presidency, we do so because of his devotion to the principles of free soil, his high administrative ability, his advocacy of the protective industry of the country, his availability, and the fact that he would, if elected, administer the affairs of the government upon strictly Republican principles.

Gen. Cameron is no ordinary man. He was born to toil. He is from the ranks of the people; his sympathies are with them, and his whole life is an exemplification of devotion to their interests. A laboring man himself, he has always striven to dignify and elevate labor. He declared in the United States Senate in 1846, when opposing the reduction of the tariff of 1842: "What I have done has been with a view of showing the great importance of this trade, now threatened with destruction, with no motive that I can see, unless it be to build up in the South a lordly aristocracy, who have no conception of the dignity of labor. It shall not be said hereafter that this calamity was brought upon the laboring men of my country without all the effort in my power to prevent it. My sympathies are with the people. I came from among the children of toil, and by constant application and honest labor, have reached the proud position I occupy. The best legacy I could desire to leave my children, would be the fact, that I had contributed to defeat a measure fraught, as I believe this is, with calamity to those with whom I have mingled all my life."

He is the descendant of the Camerons of Scotland, one of the bravest of the Highland clans, and of Conrad Pfoutz, a German Huguenot, who, because of his religious belief, was driven from his native land, came to this country, and greatly distinguished himself in the war with the Indians.

On the 8th of March, 1799, Gen. Cameron was born in Maytown, Lancaster Co., Pennsylvania. His father was a working man, and was noted for his strict integrity. In 1808 he removed to Northumberland, upon the Susquehanna River, where he shortly after died. His mother being thus left a widow, with no means for the education of her young and growing family, although a woman of great energy of character, felt the heavy responsibility that was resting upon her; and discouraging and disheartening as were the influences by which she was surrounded, faithfully toiled to keep her little ones together.

Simon, then a boy of between nine and ten years of age, declared he was old enough to make his own living, and was soon employed to carry the mail on horseback from Harrisburg to Wilkes Barre. It was a lonely, and at that time wild and dreary road, but the boy was equal to his task, and for several years "rode the mail," to the satisfaction of his employer.

Determining to learn a trade, he apprenticed himself to the printing business, but his employer failing, he took his bundle under his arm, and without a dollar in his pocket, but a brave heart and determined will, turned his back upon his home and set out to seek employment. At Harrisburg, he engaged in the office of JAMES PEACOCK, Esq., as an apprentice, with whom he finished learning his profession. During his apprenticeship he was a close student, frequently studying all night, and yet performing the quota of work required of him. At the expiration of his apprenticeship, he went to Washington City, where he worked as a journeyman in the office of the National Intelligencer, and in 1822 he returned to Harrisburg, and became one of the Editors of the Pennsylvania Intelligencer, the then organ of the Democratic party at the seat of Government.

He at once took high rank as an Editor, and became one of the master spirits of his party. His originality of thought, his force, vigor, and terseness as a writer, attracted public attention to him, and soon the young Editor found himself at the head of his profession in the State. It was, for him, a triumph indeed. Friendless and alone, he had commenced life, not even enjoying the advantages of a common school education. He had struggled nobly for the mastery, and found himself, a very young man, occupying a position, socially and politically, of which any young man might be justly proud. He loved his profession. Office had no charms for him, for he declined a nomination for Congress, with the knowledge that he could be elected without difficulty. Governor Jno. Andrew Shultz appointed him Adjutant General of the State, which office he accepted, as it did not interfere with his Editorial labors, and it is needless to say he discharged the duties in a satisfactory manner.

In 1829 he retired from the Editorial chair of the Intelligencer, and sometime after, a Charter for the Middletown Bank having been obtained, Gen. Cameron was, on its organization, elected Cashier, and held that position for twenty-seven consecutive years. During that time he was actively engaged in politics, and also connected with all the important internal improvements of the State—for which, to him, more than any other one man, Pennsylvania is indebted.

The Presidential campaign of 1844 was one of the most exciting and bitter ever witnessed in Pennsylvania. The Mining and Manufacturing interest demanded that the Protective system which had been adopted, should remain undisturbed.

Under its benign influence their furnaces, forges and rolling mills were in full and successful operation. Labor commanded its highest reward; the farmer had a home market, and his produce

commanded remunerative prices. Mr. Polk was believed to favor the doctrine of free trade, but his party friends pointed to the Kane letter, as evidence of his soundness on the tariff, and he was elected. He called Mr. Buchanan, who was then in the U. S. Senate, into his Cabinet, which left a vacancy in that body. The Democrats in the Legislature, in caucus, nominated Hon. Geo. W. Woodward, and as they had a majority of seventeen or eighteen in joint ballot, they were confident of his election. Mr. Woodward was known to be opposed to the Protective policy, and the Whigs and tariff Democrats resolved to elect a Senator whom they knew to be sound on that question, and Gen. Cameron was that man. He was elected, and fierce and bitter were the denunciations hurled against him by the Administration, and by the party press of the State.

In 1846 the McKay bill came up in the Senate, by which it was proposed to strike down the tariff of 1842. Gen. Cameron, true to his principles and pledges, in the face of his party, opposed it, and fought it so hard that it only passed by the *casting* vote of Vice-President Dallas, of Penn., to whom he administered the following well-merited and scathing rebuke:

"We are told out of the House that this bill is to become a law by the casting vote of the Vice-President. I am happy to say that I have seen no evidence of such intention, nor will I believe that there is such a design, until I am convinced by the evidence of my own senses. To all the inquiries that have been made of me I have said that it cannot be; that no native Pennsylvanian, honored with the trust and confidence of his fellow-citizens, could prove recreant to that trust, and dishonor the State that gave him birth. His honorable name, and the connections of his ancestry with her history, forbid it. His own public acts and written sentiments forbid it. If, as has been said, this question is to be settled by the casting vote of the Vice-President, he will not, as a wise man, adopt a bill which no Senator will father; but will rather, taking advantage of his high and honorable position, make one which shall contribute to the happiness of our people and the glory of our common country. Let him not be allured by the voice of flattery from the sunny south. No man can be strong abroad, who is not strong at home. Before a public man risks a desperate leap, he should remember that political gratitude is prospective; that desertion of home, of friends, and of country, may be hailed by the winning party when the traitor is carrying in the flag of his country; but when the honors of the nation whom he has served are to be distributed, none are given to him.

"Will any man believe that a son of South Carolina, occupying that chair, elected under such circumstances, with the casting vote in his hands on this bill, would give that vote contrary to the almost unanimous wishes of his own State? And shall it be said that a Pennsylvanian has less attachment for his Commonwealth than a son of Carolina? I have said that I will not believe it, and as evidence that it cannot be so, I give, in conclusion, the following eloquent passage from a speech of the Hon. George M. Dallas, when occupying the seat I now hold, on a question precisely similar to the one now before us."

Extract from a Speech of Mr. Dallas on the Tariff of 1832.

"I am inflexible, sir, as to nothing but adequate protection. The process of attaining that may undergo any mutation. Secure that to the home labor of this country, and our opponents shall have, as far as my voice and suffrage can give it them, a '*carte blanche*' whereon to settle any arrangement or adjustment their intelligence may suggest. It might have been expected, not unreasonably, that they who desired change, should tender their *projet*; that they would designate noxious particulars and intimate their remedies; that

they would invoke the skill and assistance of practical and experienced observers on a subject with which few of us are familiar, and point with precision to such parts of the extensive system as can be modified without weakening or endangering the whole structure. They have forborne to do this. They demand an entire demolition. **FREE TRADE** is the burden of their eloquence, the golden fleece of their adventurous enterprise; the goal short of which they will not pause even to breathe. I cannot join their expedition for such object. An established policy—coeval, in the language of President Jackson, with our Government—believed by an immense majority of our people to be constitutional, wise, and expedient, may not be abruptly abandoned by Congress without a *trencherous* departure from duty, a *shameless* dereliction of sacred trust and confidence. To expect it is both extravagant and unkind."

It will be remembered that in 1844 our Government claimed that our title to Oregon was clear and indisputable, and the whole country was for asserting it. "Fifty-four forty, or fight!" was the Democratic battle cry during the canvass, yet the President and his Cabinet backed down from that line to 49. Gen. Cameron in his seat in the Senate declared "he believed fully our title only terminates where the Russian line begins, at 54 40," and did not abandon his position and vote for the acceptance of the proposition of the British Minister to make the boundary on the line of 49, clearly showing that he would not, for the sake of basking in the sunshine of political favor, agree to surrender one foot of territory that he believed rightfully belonged to us.

During that Senatorial term he made repeated efforts to procure the passage of a tariff protecting the different branches of American industry, but the Northern Democracy, fearful of offending their cotton growing masters, always united with them to defeat him. So faithfully did he labor for the interests of his constituents, that men of all parties united in doing him honor, and conventions of both political parties endorsed his course. The Whigs of Columbia County passed the following resolution, which was endorsed by other counties.

Resolved—That as citizens of Pennsylvania we have looked with pride and satisfaction to the honorable, faithful, untiring, yet unsuccessful exertions of the Hon. Simon Cameron, in the defense of his native State during the pendancy of McKay's British Tariff Bill before Congress; and however much we may differ on other questions of public policy, as regards this one, we hail him as Pennsylvania's true friend and champion, standing in noble and honorable contrast to the silver-haired trickster, who, by his casting vote, sold his native State to the tender mercies of man owners.

Pending the passage of the Ten Regiment Bill during the Mexican war, Gen. Cameron offered an amendment to it, granting 160 acres of land to every officer, private soldier, and musician who volunteered during that war. Notwithstanding the amendment was fiercely assailed, he forced its acceptance upon the Senator who introduced the bill, and as amended, it passed the Senate by only a majority of one or two.

His position on the slavery question is clear and unmistakable. He has all his life been opposed to the extension of Slavery, and more than thirty years ago, while editing the Pennsylvania

Intelligencer, took the position upon the Slavery question now occupied by the Republican party, opposition to the extension of Slavery into the territory of the United States, and that the Federal Government has power to restrict it to its present limits. He uniformly voted to prohibit the introduction of Slavery into any territory acquired from Mexico, and also for the non-extension of Slavery, proviso to the Three Million Loan Bill. In 1847, although strongly urged, he declined being a candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania, at a time when he would have been triumphantly elected.

In 1857 he became a candidate for the U. S. Senate, and although the President elect warmly supported Col. Jno. W. Forney, and urged upon the Democratic party, who were in the majority in the Legislature, his election, such was the known devotion of Gen. Cameron to the industrial interests of the State, that three members of the Legislature, representing mining and manufacturing counties, although elected as Democrats, disregarded party ties, voted for him, thereby securing his election, and it is the fact that the county most deeply interested in those branches of industry, endorsed the course of her two Representatives in supporting General Cameron by casting her vote for the opposition party at the two last elections.

Pending the passage of the Lecompton Constitution, he stood by the side of Seward, Hale, and Sumner, and fought that iniquitous measure at every step of the proceedings. For weeks he resisted the attempts of Senator Green, of Missouri, the chosen champion of the Slavery propagandists, and the organ of the President in the Senate, to force it to a vote before its opponents were ready. The English Bill he denounced as "a trick to impose upon a weak man, or to enable corrupt men to make the impression upon their constituents at home that they have acted honestly."

Gen. Cameron is the warm and decided advocate of the Pacific Rail Road, a Homestead law, the improvement of Rivers and Harbors, and of all those wise and just measures which will be the means of building up the Great West, of developing its resources, and which will enable it to take the proud position it is entitled to occupy in the Confederacy of States.

Aside from politics, he is a man of generous and noble impulses, and his liberality and devotion to friends is proverbial. There are hundreds of men in Pennsylvania whom he aided when commencing their life's struggles, who are now prospering in business. Justly is he entitled to the appellation of "the poor man's friend, and Pennsylvania's champion of the rights of labor."

Pennsylvania, whose son he is, and to whose interest he has been so faithful, will present his name to the Chicago Convention as her choice for the Presidency, and will urge his nomination with a confidence that should he be nominated, he will be triumphantly elected; that beyond all question he will command the

vote of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, which will again be the battle ground, as it was in 1856.

In point of administrative ability, Gen Cameron has few equals, and no superiors. He is a man of unquailing courage, and would hold the helm of our ship of State with a firm and steady hand. A working man himself, he is untiring in his devotion to the interests of those he represents. The interests of the country, of freedom, and of the party, demands his nomination, and we ask you to give his claims to the Presidency the consideration to which they are justly entitled.

With the history of Mr. Lincoln and his political record you are already familiar. He is a native of Kentucky, and like Gen. Cameron, from the ranks of the people, the architect of his own fortune. He had not the advantages in his youth of either schools or colleges, yet through his own exertions has obtained a most liberal and thorough education.

Mr. Lincoln is an able lawyer, and stands at the head of his profession in the central part of the State. For more than thirty years he has been a resident of Illinois, and although he has always taken an active part in politics, has never sought office.

When elected to the House of Representatives of Illinois, and to the Congress of the United States in 1846, it was without effort on his part. During the existence of the Whig party, he was an active and leading member of that party in this State, following in the footsteps of the illustrious Clay, who declared in 1850, "the Constitution neither created, nor does it continue Slavery," and on the organization of the Republican party, united with it, and is now regarded as one of the ablest among the champions of freedom and free soil.

In his canvass in 1858 with Judge Douglas for the U. S. Senatorship, he proved himself an able debater, and a profound Statesman. He has the popular heart of Illinois. The purity of his life, the nobleness of his heart, the fervor of his eloquence, the honesty of purpose for which he is characterized, and the boldness with which he has ever battled for the right, and denounced the wrong, entitle him to the confidence and respect of the American people.

He has always been distinguished for his conservatism, and patriotism, and it is meet that the Republican National Convention should honor the Republicans of the North-west by placing upon the ticket their representative man.

In speaking of the doctrines contained in the Declaration of Independence, in one of his discussions with Judge Douglas, he said :

"Now, my countrymen, if you have been taught doctrines conflicting with the great landmarks of the Declaration of Independence; if you have listened to suggestions which would take away from its grandeur, and mutilate the symmetry of its proportions; if you have been inclined to believe that all men are *not* created equal in those inalienable rights enumerated by our chart of liberty, let me entreat you to come back. Return to the fountain whose waters spring close by the blood of the Revolution. Think nothing of me—

take no thought for the political fate of any man whomsoever—but come back to the truths that are in the Declaration of Independence. You may do anything with me you choose, if you will but heed these sacred principles. You may not only defeat me for the Senate, but you may take and put me to death. While pretending no indifference to earthly honors, I do claim to be actuated in this contest by something higher than an anxiety for office. I charge you to drop every paltry and insignificant thought for any man's successes. It is nothing; I am nothing; Judge Douglas is nothing. *But do not destroy that immortal emblem of Humanity—the Declaration of American Independence.*

We have thus briefly given a sketch of the life, character, and public services of our candidates, and feel confident that their nomination would be followed by their triumphant election. To keep the election out of Congress, we must secure the electoral vote of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The next electoral vote will be 306, should Kansas be admitted into the Union during the present session of Congress; consequently it will take 154 votes to elect. Of these the free States will cast 186, and the slave States 120. Without Pennsylvania and New Jersey, we cannot elect, even if our candidate should receive the votes of every other Northern State; while with them we will succeed, though we lose the States of Illinois, Indiana, California, and Oregon. The nomination of Mr. Lincoln will secure us the votes of Illinois and Indiana, and we hope to carry Oregon and California also.

We may succeed with other candidates; with Cameron and Lincoln, we will. The cause of human freedom is of more importance than the success of any individual. Personal preference should be waived, and we should unite upon men who, while they represent the principles of our party, are also available.

By order of the Executive Committee,

FERNANDO JONES,

Chairman.

Published by order of the Club,

CHARLES V. DYER, President.

JO. W. BELL, Secretary.

ELECTORAL VOTES.

FREE STATES.	SLAVE STATES.		
Maine.....	8	Virginia.....	15
New Hampshire.....	5	Delaware.....	3
Vermont.....	5	Maryland.....	8
Massachusetts.....	18	North Carolina.....	10
Rhode Island.....	4	South Carolina.....	8
Connecticut.....	6	Georgia.....	10
New York.....	85	Alabama.....	9
New Jersey.....	7	Mississippi.....	7
Pennsylvania.....	27	Louisiana.....	6
Ohio.....	23	Arkansas.....	4
Michigan.....	6	Tennessee.....	12
Indiana.....	13	Kentucky.....	12
Illinois.....	12	Missouri.....	9
Iowa.....	4	Florida.....	8
Wisconsin.....	5	Texas.....	4
California.....	4	Total.....	120
Oregon.....	3		
Kansas.....	8		
Minnesota.....	4		
Total.....	186		